

**Remarks**

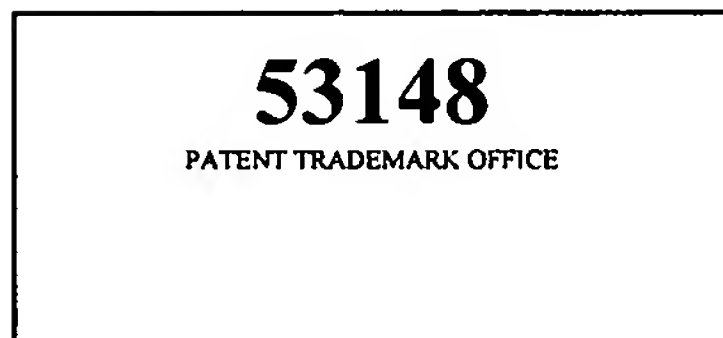
The above preliminary amendment is made to remove a multiple dependency from claim 16, amend claims 17-19, and add new claim 20.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612)455.3804.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2902  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0902  
(612) 455.3800



Dated: January 10, 2006

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Douglas P. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/nel